

**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 5**

**DATE:** September 20, 2001

**SUBJECT:** Reports of Significant Developments and Activities  
Ending on September 14, 2001

**FROM:** William E. Muno, Director  
Superfund Division

**TO:** Thomas V. Skinner  
Regional Administrator

David A. Ullrich  
Deputy Regional Administrator

The activities listed below are organized by site-specific activities, other significant developments, training/conferences, and stakeholder feedback:

**SITE-SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES**

**Administrative Complaint Filed, National Steel Corporation, Great Lakes Division, River Rouge, Michigan**

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) Oil Planning and Response Section has recently filed an Administrative Complaint against National Steel Corporation, Great Lakes Division, River Rouge, Michigan. The Complaint alleges that National Steel had failed to comply with the Spill Prevention, Control and Countermeasures (SPCC) regulation located at Title 40 Code of Federal Regulations Part 112 (40 CFR 112), which is authorized by Section 311(j) of the Clean Water Act (CWA), Title 33 United States Code (33 U.S.C.) Section 1321(j). Specifically, National Steel failed to prepare and implement an adequate SPCC Plan (40 CFR 112.3) for its Zug Island facility. This facility is an integrated steel making facility which includes a blast furnace and coke plant.

An administrative penalty of \$136,864 was proposed for these violations. One settlement meeting was held on July 25, 2001.

Contacts: Barb Carr (312-886-7187)  
Bob McCoy (312-886-0185)

**Phase II Environmental Site Assessment, Tappan Property, Elyria, Ohio**

On August 21, 2001 Brooke Furio traveled to Elyria, Ohio, to partake in the second round of the Phase II environmental site assessment of the Tappan Property located in Elyria, Ohio. The second round of Phase II was conducted over the entire week of August 20, 2001. The City of Elyria was awarded a \$200,000 Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilot in September 2000. The City is targeting the entire grant for the environmental assessment of the Tappan Property. The City is also receiving assistance from Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA). Ohio EPA had on site their mobile lab, their geoprobe, and staff to assist the City's consultant with the Phase II work. Results from this round of testing are expected by the end of September 2001. Brooke Furio also attended a separate meeting that was held on the same day with the City of Elyria and the State of Ohio. During this meeting, the members discussed the progress of the project, community involvement activities, and financing.

Contact: Brooke Furio (312-353-2513)

**Site Visit, Oconomowoc Electroplating Company, Inc., Superfund Site, Ashippun, Wisconsin**

On September 12, 2001, David Brauner, James Chapman (Superfund Ecologists), Steve Padovani (Remedial Project Manager), and Hong Sun (Fully Integrated Environmental Location Decision Support, FIELDS, Associate) visited the Oconomowoc Electroplating Company, Inc., Superfund site in Ashippun, Wisconsin. The wetlands portion of the site was remediated in 1994-1995, and the wetlands were restored within two years after completion of the remediation. Long-term monitoring of the wetlands at the site is currently being funded via post-remedial sediment monitoring funding from Office of Emergency and Remedial Response (OERR). This funding is to collect post-remediation chemical and biological monitoring data at sites that have been cleaned up in order to evaluate how well the remedy was in reducing risks to ecological or human health. In other words, was the remedy successful? The purpose of the present visit was to take global positioning system (GPS) readings around the boundary of the remediated area and to locate an appropriate reference site. FIELDS will use these data to generate the locations of a random sample design.

Contacts: David Brauner (312-886-1526)  
James Chapman (312-886-7195)  
Steve Padovani (312-353-6755)

Hong Sun (312-353-2102)

#### **OTHER SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS**

##### **Brownfields One-Stop-Shop, Great Lake Environmental Finance Center, Cleveland, Ohio**

On August 21, 2001, Brooke Furio and Lyn Luttner had a meeting with members of Great Lake Environmental Finance Center (GLEFC). The meeting was held to discuss the roles and responsibilities of GLEFC in implementing the Brownfields One-Stop-Shop Task Force (BOSS). The BOSS Task Force was set up to solve the problem of there not being one place where organizations can go to find out how to address Brownfields redevelopment issues. The Task Force functions under the umbrella of the Cleveland Federal Executive Board, and is co-chaired by U.S. EPA and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The Great Lakes Environmental Finance Center, through a cooperative agreement with U.S. EPA, provides support to BOSS. Using a collaborative process, the Task Force identified initial links to Federal and State resources for seven projects presented to the Task Force, and found resources for six of the seven projects.

Contacts: Lyn Luttner (440-250-1711)  
Brooke Furio (312-353-2513)

##### **Oakland County News Conference (Brownfield Redevelopment Initiative Launch), Pontiac, Michigan**

On September 11, 2001, Brooke Furio attended a news conference in Pontiac, Michigan. The news conference was held to launch a Brownfield Redevelopment Initiative in Pontiac, Michigan. Oakland County Executive, Brooks Patterson, presented Pontiac Mayor, Walter Moore, with an oversized replica of a \$80,000 check representing seed money to redevelop three properties in Pontiac's Woodward Loop area. The County's investment will be used to create a brownfields plan for the entire Woodward Loop and to fund environmental assessments for the Central Schools building, the Sears building, and the 41 N. Saginaw building. The \$80,000 investment came from a \$250,000 Brownfield Assessment Demonstration Pilot grant recently awarded to Oakland County. Both the County Executive, Brooks Patterson, and the Pontiac Mayor, Walter Moore, publically thanked U.S. EPA for their assistance. Brooke Furio, the Project Manager, answered several questions from the press.

Contact: Brooke Furio (312-353-2513)

**Discussion (Phase I Environmental Assessment Results), City of Akron, Akron, Ohio**

On August 20, 2001, Brooke Furio met with several representatives of the City of Akron. The City of Akron requested the meeting to discuss the results of the seven Phase I environmental assessments completed as part of the U.S. EPA Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilot Project. The City received \$250,000 from U.S. EPA, and has targeted seven properties for environmental assessment. The meeting focused on next steps, financing, overcoming liability issues, future phase II work, and other issues related to the cleanup and redevelopment of brownfields. The most promising project the City is currently undertaking is the assessment and cleanup a property that will be used by the National Park Service as a Visitor Center for the Cuyahoga Valley National Park. The site, Lock 1 West, sits right along the Erie Canal could have possible soil and groundwater contamination.

Contact: Brooke Furio (312-353-2513)

**Discussion (City's Recent Developments), City of Cleveland, Cleveland, Ohio**

On August 22, 2001, Brooke Furio met with Belinda Pesti from the City of Cleveland's Department of Economic Development. The City of Cleveland requested the meeting to discuss the City's recent developments with their Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Project. The City has been working with the Wire Net, a Community Development Corporation, on Cleveland's near westside. The City has recently completed an area wide phase I environmental assessment on ten properties. These properties are targeted as part of a new road development. This new road will provide access to properties that are currently being developed as an industrial park. The City of Cleveland plans to expend the remaining U.S. EPA brownfields funds on a phase II environmental assessment of the 10 properties targeted for the road. The City has leveraged funds, \$450,000, from the Economic Development Administration and the State of Ohio for the construction of the road

Contact: Brooke Furio (312-353-2513)

**Meeting (First Loan), Brownfields Cleanup Revolving Loan Fund Pilot, Cuyahoga County, Ohio**

On August 22, 2001, Brooke Furio had a meeting with members of Cuyahoga County to discuss the County's first loan to be made this Fall using the Brownfields Cleanup Revolving Loan Fund Pilot (BCRLF). The Director of the Office of Budget & Management, the Brownfields Development Specialist, representatives from the Planning Commission, and several County Attorneys attended the meeting. The County has targeted a portion of property on the East Side of Cleveland to be reused as a community garden. In order to reuse this property as a garden, the City will have to remove contaminated soil from the site. The County plans on entering this property into the new Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA), Voluntary Action Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) Track Program. The members of the meeting discussed the cleanup, the loan document, payback mechanisms, financing, and other related topics.

Contact: Brooke Furio (312-353-2513)

### **TRAINING/CONFERENCES**

#### **Prospective Brownfield Assessment Pilots, Michigan**

On September 4-5, 2001, Mike Gifford met with three Michigan communities interested in applying for Brownfield Assessment Demonstration Pilot grants in 2001. The communities include the County of Ionia, the County of Sanilac, and Bay City. Sanilac County previously applied in 2000 and Bay City applied in 1999. Mr. Gifford met with local officials and an environmental consultant, who will provide support to the communities during proposal preparation. Each visit included: an initial meeting in which Mr. Gifford provided an overview of U.S. EPA's Brownfield program and answered questions; a tour of the community; and, individual stops at potential brownfields sites where grant funds, if awarded, would be targeted for environmental assessment activities.

Contact: Mike Gifford (312-886-7257)

#### **Meeting (Cohesive Policy and Program for Brownfields), Oakland County, Michigan**

On September 11, 2001, Brooke Furio of the Brownfields & Early Action Section met with Oakland County, Michigan. The purpose of the meeting was to begin to move toward a cohesive policy and program for brownfields. The State of Michigan has changed the Tax Reversion Law. The new law will potentially cause many

contaminated properties to become properties of Michigan Counties. Oakland County is concerned that the County will shortly have possession of a large portfolio of contaminated properties. Brooke Furio gave a formal presentation on specific U.S. EPA programs that pertain to brownfields. Brooke Furio also gave short presentations on what other local governments in Region 5 are doing to manage brownfields cleanups and developments. Oakland County currently has a \$250,000 U.S. EPA Brownfield Assessment Demonstration Pilot grant. Much of the funding from the Pilot is being targeted at properties located in downtown Pontiac. Members of Oakland County's Executive Office, Treasurer's Office, Corporation Counsel, Planning & Economic Development, and Department of Solid Waste attended the meeting. Also, Pat Grieve from AKTPearless gave a presentation on the State of Michigan's brownfields program.

Contact: Brooke Furio (312-353-2513)

#### **STAKEHOLDER FEEDBACK**

##### **Letter of Thanks, U.S. Dept. of Transportation**

During the week of September 10-14, 2001, Response Section 1 Chief, Jason El-Zein, received a letter thanking him for arranging for On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Kurt Grunert to serve as a presenter at the 2001 Multimodal Hazardous Materials Transportation Training Seminar in Romulus, Michigan. The breakout sessions OSC Grunert presented at were "Transporting Hazardous Waste" and the "Basic Awareness Course." The seminar took place August 18 and 19, 2001.

Contact: Jason El-Zein (734-692-7663)

##### **Letter of Thanks, Tremont City Landfill AKA North San Ldfl site, Tremont City, Ohio**

In a letter, dated September 4, 2001, to Thomas V. Skinner, Regional Administrator, Co-Chairs of Citizens for Water (CF/Water), Maynard Amstutz and Martin Cook, wrote the following about Denise Battaglia's work on the Tremont City Landfill AKA North San Ldfl site, Tremont City, Ohio:

"CF/Water's members wish to express their appreciation for the fine public relations work performed by Denise Battaglia while assigned to the USEPA investigation of the Tremont Landfill and adjacent 47,000 barrel barrel-fill.

She was extremely well organized in arranging public meetings, raising public awareness of the purpose of the investigation, coordinating press releases and setting up public information repositories at the Clark County Public Library and the Tremont City United Methodist Church.

Her professionalism was augmented by her friendly and outgoing personality. She provided excellent support for John O'Grady's project.

Thank you for assigning Ms. Battaglia to this activity and please express our thanks to her for an outstanding effort. We shall miss her."

Contacts: John O'Grady (312-886-1477)  
Denise Battaglia (312-886-9859)

cc: Barry Breen (OECA)  
Steve Luftig (OSWER)  
Larry Reed (OERR)  
Larry Zaragoza (OSWER)  
Craig Beasley (OSWER)  
Michael Shapiro (OSWER)  
Sylvia Lowrance (OECA)  
Region 5 State Superfund Coordinators  
Division/Office Directors  
ORA State Coordinators  
Regional Team Managers